



## Mount Vernon City Schools

### Health Services

#### Head Lice: Administrative Guidelines

##### Lice Identified or Suspected:

1. Any student found to have nits may remain in the classroom and go home at the end of the day to be treated *or* taken home by the parent/guardian at any time. The parent/guardian will be confidentially notified by the clinic staff. A 'Lice Letter' and pamphlet will be provided to families.
2. Any student found to have an active infestation will be discouraged from close head-to-head contact and the parent/guardian will be confidentially contacted. The parent/guardian *may* take the student home once notified. A 'Lice Letter' and pamphlet will be provided to families.
3. Students must be treated and will be checked by the clinic staff when they return to school.
4. Parents/guardians of children with head lice will be encouraged to talk to parents/guardians of close playmates/friends.
5. Parents/guardians will not be informed of the names of other children who have lice in school, as that is a privacy concern and the risk of getting lice from a classmate is small. Classroom notes will be sent home if there are more than two confirmed cases.
6. It may be appropriate to screen other children who have close head-to-head contact with a student with an active infestation such as household members.
7. It may be prudent to check other students who are symptomatic. The teacher and the school nurse/health assistant will collaborate on the identification of any such students.
8. The health staff's goals are to facilitate an accurate assessment of the problem, contain infestation, provide health information for treatment and prevention, prevent overexposure to potentially hazardous chemicals, and minimize school absence.
9. If there have been documented communication efforts with parents/guardians on three **separate** occasions for the same student and no improvement is seen - that student *will be sent home* until proper treatment is completed.
10. If a student continues to have a lice infestation after all previous steps have been followed and has *missed more than three school days* due to lice infestation a referral to Child Protective/Family Services is required.

##### **Please see these links for additional information:**

- [Pediculosis Management in the School Setting](#), The National Association of School Nurses
- [Head Lice Treatment](#), The American Academy of Pediatrics
- [Head Lice Information for Schools](#), CDC - Head Lice - Schools